



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

Chief Administrative Officer
Fire Chief
Director of Planning
Director of Public Works

At its meeting held November 4, 2003, the Board took the following action:

79-B

Supervisor Antonovich made the following statement:

“The recent fires impacting the unincorporated areas of Stevenson Ranch, Palmer Canyon, and Chatsworth raise issues relative to preventative measures that minimize the spread of fire as well as effective means of controlling floods after fires have occurred.

“Recent changes to County codes and policies relative to landscape buffers, fire-resistant construction, and other measures are helpful in preventing the spread of fires. Given the containment of fires in Los Angeles County, it is an appropriate time to investigate whether additional proactive measures should be taken that will further assist firefighters and other emergency personnel.

“The recent fires burned hillside vegetation that provided a natural barrier to potential flooding and mudslides. Past history has shown that flood damages can dramatically increase following high fire seasons, and over the years, the County has partnered with the United States Forest Service to proactively implement measures to minimize potential flood and mudflow damages. Sediment and debris control, landscape buffers, seeding, etc., will protect residents from flooding and mudflow impacts. Because the recent fires are occurring so late in the year, the threat from flooding is even greater due to the impending onset of the rainy season. It is important that County staff work with other governmental agencies and County residents to relandscape hillside areas as soon as possible.

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“Staff of the Department of Public Works should identify the most economical and efficient means of relandscaping hillside areas and disseminate this information to the public as soon as it is available.”

James A. Noyes, Director of Public Works addressed the Board.

After discussion, on motion of Supervisor Antonovich, seconded by Supervisor Yaroslavsky, unanimously carried, the Board took the following actions:

1. Made a finding pursuant to Government Code Section 54954.2(b)(2), that there is a need to take immediate action and that the need for action came to the attention of the Board subsequent to the agenda being posted as specified in subdivision (a);
2. Instructed the Director of Public Works to:
 - a. Enter into agreements, as necessary, with the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and other agencies, to install debris control facilities and work with the agencies to secure reimbursement costs associated with the installation of debris control facilities and emergency revegetation projects;
 - b. Identify the most economical and efficient means of relandscaping hillside areas and disseminate this information to the public as soon as it is available; and
 - c. Report back to the Board with information from the Los Angeles County Fire Department's Division of Forestry for the best means possible to reseed the fire devastated areas, if any contracts are needed for this process, and how we can begin reseeding after the fire is extinguished without waiting for Board approval; and

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3. Instructed the Director of Public Works, Director of Planning, Fire Chief, and the Chief Administrative Officer's Office of Emergency Management to work together to determine additional proactive measures that should be taken to further assist firefighters and other emergency personnel in preventing the spread of fire.

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Copies distributed:

Each Supervisor

County Counsel

Administrator, Office of Emergency Management

Chief, Forestry Division, Los Angeles County

Fire Department